

REMARKSRejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 19-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jonsson (U.S. Patent 6,272,214). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 is drawn to a method for establishing a conference between a subscriber and a participant, comprising the steps of requesting identification information from the participant, and connecting the participant to the conferencing system in response to the provided identification information.

The Examiner contends that Jonsson teaches providing a unique URL and in response to the participant clicking the URL, requesting identification information from the participant, and connecting the participant to the conferencing system in response to the provided identification information. The Examiner referenced col. 3, ll. 3-46 and col. 4, ll. 1-26 for this teaching. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Jonsson appears to teach using a URL, email message, text message, etc. to provide a participant with information that the participant with the means to RSVP to a conference and provide a participant with information (personal reference number, telephone number) the participant can use to connect with a scheduled conference. Specifically, Jonsson states:

Using the unique identifier and suitable terminal equipment, any recipient of the notification message desiring to participate in the conference can, for example, call the telephone number provided (or click on the URL, etc.) *in order to make a request to participate in the conference. In response to receiving such a request to participate (via a telephone call, URL, etc.), the conference service node generates a reference identifier personalized for that requester.* That personal reference identifies a specific meeting "location" for that requester. *Using that personal reference (telephone number, etc.) and suitable terminal equipment, that requester can access the conference via that meeting location* (e.g., a selected communications node, such as a host processor, communications controller, cluster controller, terminal, etc.). Consequently, in accordance with the present

invention, any bona fide telemeeting participant can connect to and join the telemeeting from any remote location via the most appropriate communications node (e.g., to minimize calling distance, costs, etc.).

Col. 3, ll. 29-46. Thus, a potential participant can receive the information the participant needs to join the conference at the appointed time, from any location. Thus, the participant receives information from the URL, but does not appear provide information and become connected to the conference as a result of providing the information, as recited in the claim. Rather, the participant uses the information provided by the URL to join a conference at a later time.

Jonsson appears to teach first sending invitation message to a participant, then upon receiving the invitation, the participant calls one or more telephone numbers that are allocated to the conference call (col. 4, ll. 17-22). These phone numbers have been previously allocated by the conferencing system when the conference call is set up by a conference initiator (col. 4, ll. 2-11). Jonsson's method does not require requesting identification information from the participant, nor does it require the conferencing system to respond to the identification information provided by the participant. A participant in Jonsson's method needs simply use a phone number that has been assigned previously. Therefore, Jonsson does not teach or suggest the limitation of "*requesting identification information from the participant, and connecting the participant to the conferencing system in response to the provided identification information*" as claimed herein.

In conclusion, Jonsson does not anticipate claim 19 and its dependent claims because Jonsson does not teach or suggest each and every aspect of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 19-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jonsson (U.S. Patent 6,272,214) in view of Elliott et al. (U.S. Patent 6,690,654). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

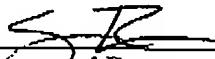
Claims 24 and 26 are dependent from claim 19. As discussed above, the primary reference Jonsson does not teach or suggest the limitation "*requesting identification information from the participant, and connecting the participant to the conferencing system in response to the provided identification information*" recited in claim 19. Elliott does not appear to provide this teaching. Hence, claim 19 is not obvious in view of Jonsson and Elliott because the combination of Jonsson and Elliott does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are allowable, and requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued for these claims. Should the Examiner have any question, please do not hesitate to call Applicant's attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Dec. 16, 2005

Date


Raymond Reese
Reg. No. 47,891

CUSTOMER NO. 29855

Wong, Cabello, Lutsch,
Rutherford & Bruculeri, L.L.P..
20333 State Hwy 249, Suite 600
Houston, TX 77070
Voice 832-446-2437
Fax 832-446-2424